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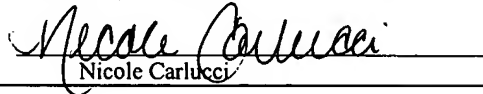
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Nicole Carlucci

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Commissioner for Patents
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is submitted in the above-identified national stage application of PCT/EP2004/007227 filed on even date herewith.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.